

Wilhelmina Cargo Case In Hands of Envoy at London

Captain of Steamship Receives Instructions to Abide by Advice of American Ambassador to England—German Threat of Ruthless Campaign Against Shipping Now Hinges Upon Britain's Attitude in Matter of Foodstuffs Shipments—German Believes Issues Involved Are at Bottom of All Threatened Difficulties for U. S. Trade and Holds Policy to Starve Empire Is in Violation of All Laws of Warfare and Civilization.

UNITED STATES LIKELY TO ACT IF GERMANY CONVEYS ASSURANCE IN THE FORM OF A NOTE

London, Feb. 14.—A Central News dispatch from Falmouth says that Capt. Brewer, of the American steamship *Wilhelmina*, has received instructions to abide by the advice of the American Ambassador at London regarding the seizure of the *Wilhelmina's* cargo.

Special Dispatch to The Washington Herald.
New York, Feb. 13 (Monday).—The Sun this morning prints the following dispatch from Washington:

It is impossible to emphasize too strongly the importance of the *Wilhelmina* case as affecting Germany's threat to wage a ruthless campaign of destruction against British shipping, even though it involves danger to the property and lives of neutrals. Germany regards the issues involved in this case as absolutely fundamental, and at the bottom of all the threatened difficulties for American trade.

If England refuses to allow the *Wilhelmina* to land her cargo of foodstuffs in Germany under guarantees which the German government has now offered that it will not fall into the hands of the military forces of the empire, Germany will carry out its program of retaliation against British supplies of food. The German government, through Count von Bernstorff, its Ambassador here, has made known:

German officers. The German Ambassador has assured the State Department further that the recent decree of the German government taking possession of all foodstuffs in the empire applied only to domestic and not to imported foodstuffs. This statement has been confirmed by cable advices from Ambassador Gerard.

Gerard to Meet Kaiser.
This view will be further impressed upon the United States government at an interview, which Ambassador Gerard is to have with the Kaiser. The American Ambassador has been summoned to the eastern front for a talk with the Kaiser, and it is understood that he is to leave Berlin in company with the Imperial Chancellor.

Germany holds, and has so informed the State Department, that the intention of England, as shown by the detention of the *Wilhelmina*, to starve Germany is beyond all laws of warfare and civilization and amply justifies the retaliatory steps planned by the German army.

Under the usual rules of war, food, if not intended for the actual combatants, is not contraband of war, and Germany contends that Great Britain's action in the *Wilhelmina* case will demonstrate what her policy will be, whether she will observe the rules of civilized warfare or whether she intends to pursue a policy of starving the German people who are not bearing arms.

The German government has assured the State Department that the *Wilhelmina's* cargo was intended exclusively for the civil population of Germany and that the German government was willing to furnish guarantees that it would not fall into the hands of the military forces of the empire. The German government informed the State Department that it was willing to have the food distributed by American consular or diplo-

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SPAIN WILL NOT TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST MEXICO

"Disagreeable but Not Dangerous," Premier Characterizes Situation.

MAY APPEAL TO U. S.

"Matter Too Delicate to Be Discussed in Chamber," Dato Tells Senators.

CARRANZA SLAPS AT WILSON

Warns Military Chiefs to Have No Dealings with "Confidential Agents."

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
Madrid, Feb. 14.—"Disagreeable but not of dangerous import" is the attitude of the government here regarding the recent expulsion from Mexico of Minister Carranza by Gen. Carranza. There is not the slightest probability of a conflict between the two countries, it was stated tonight.

The Carranza government, it was explained, never has been recognized by Spain, and Senor Carranza, consequently, had never presented his credentials to the constitutionalist chief.

Senor Dato, the Spanish premier, brought the expulsion of Minister Carranza before the senate today, and made the following statement:

"We are not face to face with conflict between Spain and Mexico. It is a deplorable incident, and it has brought about an immediate demand for explanations on our part. But we hope the matter will reach a satisfactory termination. The matter, however, is too delicate to be treated at this moment in the senate chamber."

Senor Carranza, whom Carranza gave twenty-four hours to leave Mexico because he refused to deliver Angel Cano, a Spanish subject, who took refuge in the legation in Mexico City, to Gen. Alvarez Obregon, left Mexico yesterday, accompanied by the secretary of the legation.

Creates Serious Situation.

The expulsion of Senor Carranza, Spanish minister to Mexico by Gen. Carranza has brought about the most serious phase of the Mexican situation which has occurred since the withdrawal of the American troops from Vera Cruz. It is expected that the Spanish government will make vigorous diplomatic representations to the State Department to obtain adequate redress.

It was learned here yesterday that Senor Carranza was not accredited to Gen. Carranza or to the existing government in Mexico. He was sent to Mexico City several years ago and his credentials were addressed to Gen. Huerta, who was deposed and driven out of Mexico before Senor Carranza had an opportunity to present his diplomatic credentials. This, however, does not minimize the extent of the insult to the Spanish government, because most of the foreign officials in Mexico, both consular and diplomatic, are not accredited directly to Gen. Carranza or Gen. Villa or any other factional leader.

As a rule, they bear diplomatic papers proving their identity and official status and are instructed to enter into no relations with the military leaders in actual military or official control of the section in which they are located.

That Gen. Carranza is irritated over the sending of so-called "confidential agents" into Mexico to make investigations of all sorts is indicated in a telegram received here yesterday by Senor Kilece Arredondo, the head of the constitutionalist agency in this city.

Criticism of Wilson.

In many quarters the telegram is interpreted as a criticism of the policy of President Wilson, who in the last few days has sent several "personal representatives" into Mexico. The latest special representative of this sort is Duval West, former United States District Attorney in Texas, who will leave in a few days to investigate conditions in practically every part of Mexico. President Wilson also sent William Bayard Hale and former Gov. John Lind, of Minnesota, on such missions.

Here is Carranza's telegram: "It being the exclusive province of the first chief of the constitutionalist army to direct all kinds of diplomatic negotiations and to handle all international matters, receiving the agents of foreign governments and resolving all affairs relating thereto, I consider it necessary in view of the preceding considerations, to remind all leaders of the constitutionalist army that they are not authorized to direct or to admit or to much less to pass any decision upon notes, such as complaints, representations or actions taken in behalf of foreigners, whatever the nature of the representations may be, whether they proceed from consular or confidential agents, or from persons styling themselves representatives of large interests and whose action near military chiefs might or may affect the diplomatic relations of Mexico or the duties and rights of the constitutionalist government with regard to foreigners living in this country."

"This headquarters recommends to military leaders under the command of the first chief to abstain from admitting by their side confidential agents or representatives of foreign governments or interests to the end that all possible danger of a breach of discipline may be avoided, a matter of the greatest importance in the present moments of revolutionary struggle."

Italy Joins U. S. In Demand That Neutral Flags Be Respected

Sends Note to Berlin Backing Up Attitude Taken by Washington—Scandinavian Nations, Worried at War Zone Edict, See Possibility of Hostilities Between United States and Germany.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
Rome, Feb. 14.—The Italian government has sent a note to Berlin concerning Germany's war zone decree and its menace to neutral shipping.

The note, though different in tone, thoroughly sustains the stand taken by the American government.

Copenhagen, Feb. 14.—Denmark's answer to the German admiralty warning that neutral nations must observe its "paper blockade" scheme is simply: "Look out for our white cross boats; you cannot mistake them."

The Perm, first of the White Cross fleet, sailed this afternoon for Hull, Norway and Sweden, whose flags are similar, this week will follow Denmark's example in painting huge white crosses all over their merchant ships. As an added precaution, these vessels will be illuminated at night when passing through the newly established war zone.

London, Feb. 14.—An Exchange telegram from Copenhagen says that Northern Europe is awaiting the approach of February 18, on which date Germany's declaration regarding the marine war zone goes into effect, with feelings of anxiety and suspense.

SEES SIGNS OF WAR.
Scandinavia has 150 vessels coming from over seas. Denmark is expecting sixty-two ships from America loaded with grain and fodder. Several prominent shippers have had intimations from Berlin that a gigantic output of floating contact mines is expected soon.

The Copenhagen Politiken says that the American note to Germany contains a grave warning and that an American-German war no longer is regarded as an impossibility. It says that President Wilson and Secretary Bryan are men of peace, but that public opinion in America and anti-German sentiment may drive them further than they desire. Continuing it says:

"America stands to win a lot merely by confining the numerous German ships, with many millions, which are now interned in American harbors. On the other hand Germany has everything to lose, both now and in the future. It is certainly hoped that the American warning will have the desired effect in Berlin."

GERMAN PRESS ARROGANT.
Newspapers received in Copenhagen show that the German press in Berlin is continuing to use arrogant language in discussing the American situation.

Berlin, Feb. 14 (by wireless).—The French report that the three Scandinavian kings are to hold a second meeting at Malmoe to discuss Germany's recent proclamation of a war zone is declared untrue by the Copenhagen National Tidende, which states that the only meeting to be held is one of naval specialists in Christiania to discuss the dangers of mines.

GERMANY PREPARES NOTE.
Ambassador Gerard conferred last evening with the German foreign secretary, Herr von Jagow, regarding the American note, at the latter's request.

The foreign office is now preparing an answer to the American note, and the idea is entertained in certain quarters that Germany may suggest that the United States send an American warship to convoy American merchantmen through the danger zone, thus guaranteeing the neutrality of the vessels.

The National Zeitung quotes Ambassador Gerard as declaring the American note is couched in such conciliatory and friendly terms that he did not doubt it would have a favorable result.

SCOOPS AT WAR TALK.
He expressed regret at the sharp tone of some of the American and German newspapers, but said he was sure this would not disturb the friendly relations between the two countries.

"Why should Germany and the United States wage war on each other?" Mr. Gerard asked. "There is not the slightest question of a conflict between them; their interests oppose each other nowhere in the world."

RAKE OLD ASHES TO WIN MILLIONS

Suffragists Will Reproduce Death-bed Scenes of Frank Leslie in Will Fight.

GO BACK THIRTY YEARS

Will Endeavor to Prove by Mute Records Enmity to Sons, Whose Sons Now Are Suing.

Special to The Washington Herald.
New York, Feb. 14.—From musty records, thirty-five years old on file in the Surrogate's Court, the executors of the \$2,000,000 will of Mrs. Frank Leslie have reproduced the dramatic scenes of her husband's last hours to confront the grandchildren who seek to break her will.

Like voices from the past the witnesses in the contest of Frank Leslie's will by his two sons—witnesses who testified in 1880—will record the passing of the noted publisher and the beginning of the turmoil of years that has attended his millions.

Besides his quoted declarations of enmity toward his sons, who had turned business rivals, there is included in the old-new testimony a ringing defense of his wife by Mr. Leslie—a defense spoken in the presence of death and drawn forth by his stern anger at reports of his conduct with Mrs. Leslie while she was Mrs. Squier.

Left Millions to Suffrage.
Mrs. Leslie, who was married three times, left the bulk of the \$2,000,000 estate to the cause of woman suffrage.

Three grandchildren—descendants of Frank Leslie by a former wife—demand \$120,000 of the estate, claiming that Mrs. Leslie made an agreement with her husband, the publisher, by which she promised to bequeath two-thirds of the estate to his children or their issue. The new testimony which has just been discovered appears to contradict this contention, according to Sullivan and Cromwell, counsel for the executors.

Edwin N. Dickerson, the lawyer who drew the will of Frank Leslie, testified in the son's contest of the will.

Defends His Wife.
"Mr. Leslie said the conduct of his sons had broken his heart and he was depressed until disease got the best of him. He spoke of Mrs. Leslie, and wished to dispose of his property for her benefit entirely."

BANGERT PALES BEFORE ACCUSER

Superintendent of Odd Fellows' Home Vigorously Denies He Knew of Murders.

HIDDEN DRUG IS FOUND

Sheriff Discovers Bottle of Chloroform Where Mors Said He Had Concealed It.

Special to The Washington Herald.
New York, Feb. 14.—Frederick Mors, the self-confessed murderer of eight aged persons in the Odd Fellows' home, Yonkers, today gave to Sheriff Weissendanger, of Westchester County, further corroboration of his tale of death. He told the sheriff where he had secreted the chloroform with which he "had killed the old folk to end their misery" as he explained it.

The astonished sheriff went to the Odd Fellows' home and found a bottle containing 100 grams of the drug where Mors said he had hidden it. This is the best verification of his story that Mors has yet given.

While Mors was calmly relating to the sheriff how he had killed the old people, Adolph Bangert, the suspected superintendent, was brought into the room from his cell. Mors eyed his former employer coolly, and then said: "Mr. Bangert, you aided me in committing these murders. You were present when some of these people died."

Bangert turned pale, and vigorously denied the charges made by Mors. Mors was persistent in his allegations and then Bangert admitted that he was present when one of the old people died.

"What would I have to gain by killing the old people?" demanded Bangert of Mors.

"You ask me what you have to gain? What interest would it be to me unless it was to your interest?" shot back Mors.

Mors then insisted that if the body of Mr. Haenzel was exhumed, traces of arsenic poisoning would be found. "Why did you change from arsenic to chloroform in killing the aged inmates?" asked the sheriff.

"Because arsenic was not as quiet a death as chloroform."

Aeros Seen; Ottawa Dark.

Toronto, Feb. 14.—Three aeroplanes were seen flying over Brockville toward Ottawa tonight. In Ottawa all lights were ordered extinguished.

CLOTURE FIGHT MAY FORCE AN EXTRA SESSION

Wilson's Insistence on Rule Likely to Jeopardize Appropriation Bills.

LEADERS BETWEEN FIRES

Must Either Yield on Ship Bill and "Gag" or Imperil the Expense Measures.

HARM TO PARTY IS FEARED

Democrats Believe Reconvening of Congress May Prove Administration's Undoing in Elections.

The announcement of the Democratic caucus leaders Saturday night that they would press for cloture in the Senate will, if adopted, increase the chances for the failure of the appropriation bills and make an extra session inevitable.

The Republicans will not permit the ship bill or the closure order to have over their heads while appropriation bills are being considered. Either the Democratic leaders in the Senate must give up the attempt to put through the ship bill, side track it altogether and abandon the attempt at cloture, or the Republicans will debate the general appropriation bills as they come up in the Senate.

The Republican Senators say they are willing to join the Democrats in good faith in an effort to prevent an extra session by side tracking the ship bill and the closure proposals which are incident thereto and taking up the supply bills and passing them promptly. But there is no time to be lost to the way of thinking of the minority. The Senate leaders cannot give another week's time to dallying with the ship bill and closure and then come in and demand that millions be passed over night and without scrutiny or question to meet the expenses of government.

Caucus a Slim Affair.
It is expected that today will develop just how far the Democrats intend to press for cloture in good faith. The caucus was a slim affair, comparatively speaking. It is doubtful if half of the Democratic Senators attended and it is evident that they have not the votes to pass a cloture rule even if the Progressive Republicans join with them. More than one person suspected after the caucus adjourned Saturday night, following a lot of opposition to the closure proposals and without binding any Senator to vote for a cloture rule, that the talk of pressing closure was merely to make a formal showing and that the attempt to apply the "gag" would not go very far.

The President, it is understood, is demanding cloture. Probably his party leaders desired to make a showing to him. With a little more than two weeks remaining of the session, the time will be required to pass necessary appropriation bills if an extra session is to be avoided.

It is the judgment of Republicans and Democrats alike in Congress that if many more days are devoted to efforts to revive the shipping legislation to the exclusion of other business, the President will no longer be in the position of choosing whether he will call an extra session. In that case the call cannot be avoided, for the necessary appropriations to pay the ordinary running expenses of the government cannot be put through before March 4.

Fight on Harbor Bill.
Undoubtedly there are some Senators who desire an extra session to make it reasonably certain that a river and harbor bill can be passed. They realize that the chances of passing it before the adjournment of the present session are daily growing slimmer.

Senator Burton and other Senators on the Republican side will fight the bill. They will filibuster against it as they did at the last session, when they killed it. If the bill can be put over to an extra session, Mr. Burton will be out of Congress and the most effective fighter against the "pork barrel" will be removed. Other Senators, mostly from the South, believe it would be wise to have an extra session and pass a rural credits bill and other necessary legislation.

But the preponderance of Democratic sentiment in Congress is against the extra session, and some of the leaders from the North declare that if an extra session is forced it will run along till midsummer, and the effect on the country will be so bad that it will be the undoing of the Democratic party.

MRS. ASTOR TO ENTERTAIN.

Will Open House for First Time Since Husband's Death.

New York, Feb. 14.—For the first time since the death of her husband, Col. John Jacob Astor, on the Titanic, Mrs. John Jacob Astor will open her house in Fifth Avenue on Thursday, February 15, for an entertainment.

She plans giving a musicale for the benefit of the women's wing of the Church General Hospital in Wu-chang, China, which the Wednesday Morning Bible Class has undertaken to build.

French Fall Back Before New German Drive in Lorraine

Teutons Capture Village of Norroy and Gain Foothold Surrounding Heights in Violent Offensive—Two German Columns Sweep Forward Through Lauch Vall Upon Town in Alsace While Advance Around Souv Continues and Violent Artillery Exchanges Are Progress—French Ski Patrols Seek to Hamper Swe of Kaiser's Forces—Rheims and Ypres Again Heavily Bombarded, but Violent Snowstorm Prevents Accurate Firing—Teutons Repulsed at Noulette.

BIG GUNS ROAR ALONG OISE AND AISNE; NIEUPORT AND FRENCH TRENCHES SHELL

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
London, Feb. 14.—The most severe fighting of the day in the west area occurred in Lorraine. From both the Paris and Berlin official reports it would appear that the Germans have had the better of the struggle.

Desperate fighting is in progress to the northwest of Pont-a-Mouss where the Germans already have captured the village of Norroy and are footing on the surrounding heights, having occupied what is known as "Hill 305." The Berlin report states that 151 French prisoners were taken in the actions in this vicinity. Paris is silent on the question of losses, but the midnight official admits that heavy fighting is in progress. The acknowledgement is made that the Germans occupy Norroy, but it is stated that counter-attacks are being directed against them.

In Alsace, according to the Paris statement, the Germans have been offensive through the valley of the River Lauch. Two columns are reported as advancing along the north and south banks of the river. French ski patrols have hampered the advance of these troops, according to Paris, but outpost fighting already has occurred and contact of the main armies is but a matter of hours. The Berlin official report makes no mention of this new movement.

SCHOOLS IN MIDST OF PLAGUE SCARE

Slight Scarlet Fever Epidemic in Washington and Montgomery County, Md.

3 CASES AT CHEVY CHASE
Commissioner Charges Health Officials Have Made No Effort to Check Spread of Disease.

The public schools of Washington and of Montgomery County, Md., are in the midst of a slight epidemic of scarlet fever. The disease has made its appearance at four schools in and near the Capital, and great fear is entertained that it will spread.

The most serious outbreak is at the Chevy Chase, D. C., school, where three actual cases have been discovered and one is still in doubt. The infected children are in the third and fourth grades and the one under suspicion in the eighth grade.

The disease was brought to the school by a little girl living on the line in Maryland. She was permitted for five days by her parents to attend school, despite the fact that there was scarlet fever in the family. There is no infectious disease sign on the house. Residents of the fashionable Chevy Chase section are greatly incensed over the apparent laxity of health officials.

Condemns Health Officials.
"The laxity of the health authorities is deserving of condemnation," declared Dr. Ryan Devereux, county school commissioner, last night. "No efforts are made by the officials to check the spreading of the disease. It is an outrageous situation."

A case of scarlet fever was discovered the other day at Bethesda, Md. There have been a number of suspected cases at the Chevy Chase, Md., school, and a little over a month ago the institution was closed for a week so an investigation could be made. No actual cases developed at the time.

The third and fourth grade rooms at the Chevy Chase, D. C., school have been disinfected, and all the books have been taken away for fumigation. The other day the eighth grade room was disinfected, the class adjourning to the front porch of a neighboring house for studies.

Pupils Kept Away.
Scores of pupils are being kept away from school by their parents for fear of infection. It is expected this number will increase when the prevalence of the disease is more generally known.

There are several cases at the Addition School and one case is reported at the James Ormond Normal School.

Dr. H. C. Macatee, superintendent of the school medical examiners, said last night the number of cases is likely to increase because of the excellent opportunity for infection in the crowded school rooms. He said, however, the epidemic had not yet reached a serious stage.

Sarah Bernhardt Under Knife.
Bordeaux, Feb. 14.—Sarah Bernhardt, who is in her seventy-first year, underwent an operation for an affection of the knee at the hospital. St. Augustine of Arcahon. Mme. Bernhardt has been suffering severely for many months.

Serb Fortress Blown Up.
Berlin, Feb. 14.—According to telegrams dated Bucharest and printed in Italian newspapers, the Serbian fortress of Semendria was shelled by Austro-Hungarian shells and was blown up by an explosion in the powder magazine.

YOUR MAIL BY AERO

The Second Assistant Postmaster General declared in yesterday's Herald that it was his firm conviction, and that of other high officials of the department as well, that a bill establishing the "United States Aerial Postal Service" would be passed at the next session of Congress. Within two years, Mr. Stewart predicted, postal aviators would be as commonplace in the United States as railway mail clerks are today.

A Full-Page Reproduction

—of the new stars who have come to grace the footlights of Poli's Theater printed in sepia ink on coated paper was another one of many

Exclusive Features
In Yesterday's Issue of

The Washington Herald

If you missed yesterday's best newspaper it will be many times worth your while to endeavor to secure a copy. At midnight there were a few copies of the Sunday HERALD left, which will be disposed of over the counter to first comers at the regular price—5 cents.